

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01081 171709Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 GSA-02 /093 W
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O R 171649Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9153

INFO AMCONSUL TORONTO

AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1081

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EINV, CA

SUBJ: SASKATCHEWAN POTASH SUPPLY

1. MONTREAL GAZETTE OF MARCH 17 CARRIES REGINA DATELINE REPORT OF NEWS CONFERENCE BY SASKATCHEWAN PREMIER BLAKENEY ON U.S. SENATE POTASH RESOLUTION. BLAKENEY REPORTEDLY SAID SASKATCHEWAN'S POTASH CORPORATION WILL NOT "CONTROL " PRICES BUT WILL USE ITS "INFLUENCE" ON THE MARKET TO ELIMINATE EXTREME HIGHS AND LOWS IN PRICE FLUCTUATIONS AND WILL PROVIDE CONDITIONS FOR MORE ORDERLY EXPANSION OF POTASH PRODUCTION. THIS MOVE, HE SAID, WILL BENEFIT AMERICAN FARMERS.

2. WITH SPECIFIC REGARD TO THE SENATE RESOLUTION, BLAKENEY SAID THAT IT IS "AN EXTREMELY REASONABLE AND MODERATE RESOLUTION" AND THAT HE SYMPATHIZES WITH U.S. CONCERNS. "THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF POTASH IN THE SAME WAY THAT SASKATCHEWAN WAS CONCERNED LAST YEAR ABOUT AT ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER FROM THE UNITED STATES". HE ADDES THAT THE PROVINCE'S NEED FOR U.S.

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01081 171709Z

PHOSPHATES IS ONE MORE REASON WHY HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD

NOT WANT TO DISTUPT POTASH SUPPLIES TO THE U.S.

3. BLANKENEY FURTHER SAID THAT SOME ACTIONS OF POTASH COMPANIES WHICH OWN SASKATCHEWAN MINES HAVE CREATED UNNECESSARY FEARS AND "AMERICANS SHOULD MAKE A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF THEIR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND THE VESTED INTERESTS OF THE POTASH CORPORATIONS WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED BY SASKATCHEWAN'S POLICY".
JOHNSON

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NNN

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